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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Task Force Kean continued a slow advance against enemy resistance in the south sector during the past 24 hours. Further to the north, in the lower center sector, the US Twenty-Fourth Division is engaged in containing and reducing enemy troops that have penetrated east of the Nakdong River. In the Waegwan area, where the enemy has established bridgeheads across the Nakdong, the US First Cavalry (Infantry) Division is engaged in attempts to contain and eliminate one bridgehead, while the First ROK Infantry Division has reportedly eliminated an enemy bridgehead above Waegwan. In the north sector, however, ROK forces have withdrawn along the front south of Yecheon and Andong under heavy enemy attack. Heavy fighting is continuing near the east coast town of Yongdok, but no change in positions has occurred.

Sector Reports

In the south sector, a UN force designated as Task Force Kean, and composed of the US Twenty-Fifth Division and the First Provisional Marine Brigade, is continuing efforts to reach its objective in the hills and high ground southeast of Chinju. The US 35th RCT and 5th RCT have made small gains westward, but First Marine Brigade elements striving toward the objective from Chindong have been temporarily halted.

In the lower center sector, above the junction of the Nam and Nakdong Rivers, the enemy has attempted to reinforce its bridgehead, but is meeting with strong resistance from the US 24th Division. Further to the north, the US First Cavalry Division and ROK forces are attacking other bridgeheads, one of which, above the Waegwan area, has been reportedly eliminated by ROK forces, with the ROK First Division occupying positions near the east bank of the Nakdong River, to the east of Sonzan.

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Date

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In the north sector, below Yechon and Andong, the Sixth and Eighth ROK Divisions have been forced to withdraw southward for approximately 3,000 yards to new defense positions, following strong enemy attacks.

Although heavy fighting continues in the Yongdok area, the positions remain relatively unchanged. There are reports that enemy reinforcements are heading south to join the North Korean Fifth Division above Yongdok.

A small force of guerrillas has been reported in an area eight miles south of Taegu, where the ROK provisional capital and US Eighth Army Headquarters are located.

II. Other Developments

Reports filtering out of Seoul during the second half of July indicate that both food and water are scarce and prohibitive in price. Although the North Korean regime is not distributing food to the populace, the government is executing blackmarketeers and hoarders as a measure to alleviate the shortages. The People's Committee of Seoul, the sub-committee of each ward, and subordinate street committees control the city systematically through neighborhood leftists who draw up blacklists. Laborers were conscripted in block-by-block neighborhood checks to repair the Han River bridges. Numerous bombing casualties have made the workers eager to avoid conscription wherever possible. The general populace, kept well informed by air-dropped handbills, is credited with enthusiasm and belief in the ultimate South Korean recovery while the leftists are being demoralized by UN bombings and, in doubt as to the final North Korean victory, are removing their identification armbands and modifying their behavior.

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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